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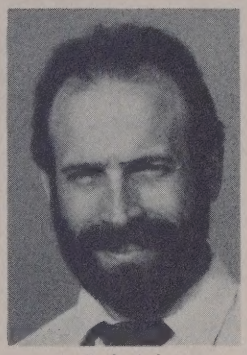
CENTER SCENE

The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter *June 1988*

Alaska Interim LIS

No where is the demand for automation of land records more immediate than in Alaska. However, the Alaska Automated Land Records System (AALRS), which was recently renamed AALMRS, is supported by obsolete equipment and software which was developed in the mid 1970s. This system is a prime target for modernization. At the current rate of growth, Alaska's database of 1.9 million action records will expand beyond the capacity of their aging Burroughs 4800 within 2 years. To compound matters, the Burroughs frequently goes down with hardware and software maintenance problems and cannot be serviced properly because of its age. And BLM must pay hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to use this antiquated system (the per month premium alone is $30,000). The Bureau recognized these problems when it developed the concept of an Interim System that is intended to supply states with updated software technology and hardware until 1993, when the target system is produced. The Interim System will provide practical methods for using the data and hardware at hand. It will aid the implementation of the target system by allowing Bureau employees time to produce standardized data bases and develop the skills necessary to become operational on the new system. The SC, the Field Committee, and field representatives are carefully working to define the scope and priorities of this Interim System. The April 11-15 meeting of the Alaska/DSC Workgroup made significant progress toward clarifying the strategy for the Interim LIS. The Interim Team is led by Bob Ader, Chief of the Branch of Interim Management and Operations. Ben Rumph and D-220 will be responsible for the land records software in the Interim LIS, including requirements definitions, data base design, and coding. Representatives from D-150 and its contractor, TGS, will provide data standards, data management principles, and guidance and support to the software development process. D-250 and GCDB workgroup are also providing significant input. Hal Wolverton, Alaska LIS Project Manager, leads a team of functional users and computer specialists who will ensure that Alaska's needs are met during the software development process. A Bureauwide evaluation team of field users will participate in the development of the Interim LIS to ensure its relevancy to the rest of the Bureau. This team, which includes persons from the resource-oriented test sites of Casper and Farmington, will work to provide a versatile and powerful Interim Land Information System to Bureau field users.



Bob Ader

New Branch

The Service Center Division of Resources' Branch of Minerals and Environmental Protection (D-474), was created in March 1988 to bring all Service Center minerals people together and to give focus to the Service Center's minerals management technical capability. "The goal was to integrate mineral-related activities," notes Bruce Van Haveren (Branch Chief), "and to get mineral people talking to each other, sharing their ideas and experience." Acting as a consultant to the Washington Office and field offices, D-474 can provide technical assistance, site investigations, project management, data base user representation, and training. Areas of expertise include fluid and solid minerals management, ground-water investigations, hazardous material management (both site selection and site reclamation) surface protection/reclamation technical assistance, and BLM-MMS liaison activities.

D-474 has 11 employees to help carry out all of their responsibilities. In addition to Branch Chief Bruce Van Haveren and Branch secretary Marilyn Chatterton, there are ground-water geologist Paul Summers, who conducts ground-water and hazardous material site investigations, and surface protection specialist Rhio Jackson, who takes care of surface protection/reclamation responsibilities. Mining engineer Joe Rasmussen maintains the Solid Leasable Minerals Systems (SLMS) data base, while fluid minerals specialist John Evans and computer assistant Sherri Ferguson look after the Automated Inspection Record System (AIRS) and Monthly Report of Operations (MRO) data bases. Jeff Jung, a systems analyst, is in charge of a project designed to automate the exchange of Federal mineral leasing data between BLM and the Minerals Management Service (MMS). Paul Bodenberger, also a systems analyst, resolves any disputes or problems that might arise between BLM and MMS and keeps the lines of communication open between the two agencies. Finally, petroleum engineer Paul Onsager, who is on loan from the BLM Colorado State Office until September, and a soon-to-be-filled computer assistant position, round out the staff.

Branch Chief Bruce Van Haveren, a hydrologist with 10 years of experience at the Service Center who recently returned from an 18-month assignment as a Visiting Professor at the Colorado School of Mines, is excited about his Branch's potential contribution to BLM's mission. "We definitely want to enhance the Service Center's ability to support field office operations," observes Bruce, "particularly in the areas of mineral data base management, ground-water investigations, and surface protection and reclamation." Given the high level of motivation and skill, the future looks bright for this newest SC Branch.

Upcoming Events

Multicultural Day Observance July 14
- Bicentennial Park
or Bldg 50 - West/Ctr

Women's Equality Day Career Workshop
August 24 and 25 Bldg 50 - West/Ctr

MORRISON'S MAYOR

How did I get to be Mayor of Morrison, you ask? My husband Huck was first approached for the job, but said "Hey, I see things in black and white—Mary sees the world of grays. You're asking the wrong person..." Under such an ominous tone, I started my political career. I invested $17.00 in flyers and shook a lot of hands. The next thing I knew I was installed as Mayor of Morrison, Colorado.

Mary Gaylord

I've been Mayor for four years now and have two years left in my second term of office. I still get a jolt though when I'm introduced as "The Honorable..."

Morrison has a very small population. But living in a "small" town does not necessarily mean small issues. Some of the things I've had to deal with include the management of a significant water asset, annexations for future growth and development, and C-470 construction and routing. Really, the town of Morrison is a micro-sample of the kinds of publics and issues a large town would face. And this job as Mayor relates well to my background and interests in communication, land use, and water resources.

I think a very important asset for a politician goes back to what my husband said at the beginning ... seeing the merits of all sides of an issue helps ensure good compromises. The political lesson I have learned is to influence with integrity. I attempt to match my goals with desired outcomes of others necessary to the decision. Politics is a subjective exercise, closer to an art than a science. But, hey, isn't that like our work in BLM?

So why would someone volunteer for this kind of work? I did it to expand my understanding and use of management and leadership principles. Life's political anyway, so you might just as well work at the bigger issues! You too can volunteer for this kind of experience—the Hatch Act allows government employees to get involved in nonpartisan elections. Get involved—Do it!

by Mary Gaylord

The Goose Produced

Gwendolyn Goose

Gwendolyn, the Canada goose who built her nest near the east entrance to Building 50, hatched five offspring the day before Mother's Day. She, husband Gossage, and the five goslings are doing fine.

SC employees treated Gwendolyn royally during her maternity period. They provided a dish of water and food to help her through the incubation.

Canada geese (Branta canadensis) are common on the Federal Center grounds. (Branta is Swedish meaning "burned goose"). There are 12 subspecies but they are difficult to identify because of cross-breeding. They mate for life and it is common for adults and young birds to return to their ancestral breeding grounds.

Females breed at 2 to 3 years, incubate their eggs for about 30 days, and produce clutches of four to five eggs (sometimes as many as eight). Canadas live from 12 to 20 years, with a record in captivity of over 30 years. Young birds double their weight weekly for the first month and moult in mid-July.

Geese normally migrate to Central America in October or November, returning in March when the south winds are favorable. The bulk of the Federal Center population stays here year-round, however.

Now if we could only teach them to use scoops and brooms.

ACRONYMS REVISITED

As a follow up to last month's article here are other acronyms which you will hear bandied about in BLM. Don't worry we have thousands more ensuring they are not among the endangered species. You can even invent your own, such as STOP!

AWP	Annual Work Plan
COLA	Cost of Living Adjustment
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
FPM	Federal Personnel Manual
GAO	General Accounting Office
HEP	Hispanic Employment Program
IM	Instruction Memorandum
OPM	Office of Personnel Management
PIPR	Performance Improvement and Position Reveiw
PLSS	Public Land Survey System
COOP	Cooperative (Education)
O&C	Oregon and California
R&D	Research and Development
TA	Travel Authorization
T&A	Time and Attendance
TEA	A Drink You Serve With Jam and Bread

I Am Your Job

I am your job.
Please take good care of me.
Perhaps you don't think much of me at times.
But if you should wake up some morning and find me gone,
You would start the day with an uneasy feeling.
From me you get food, clothing, shelter, and the necessities of life.
Considering the fact that you need me for so many things,
I wonder why you neglect me as you do at times.
What if I should slip away from you?
Your happiness would go along with me.
Your folks at home would worry.
And your bank account would dwindle.
You would be forced to forego many little things that make life most pleasant.
Your clothes would look shabby.
Your courage would weaken.
Your dash would depart.
You would feel beaten.
So, after all, I am very important to you.
Please cherish me.
Take good care of me.
And I will take good care of you.

Anonymous